



Bar Transfer Test (BTT)

Programme Overview

Spring 2025

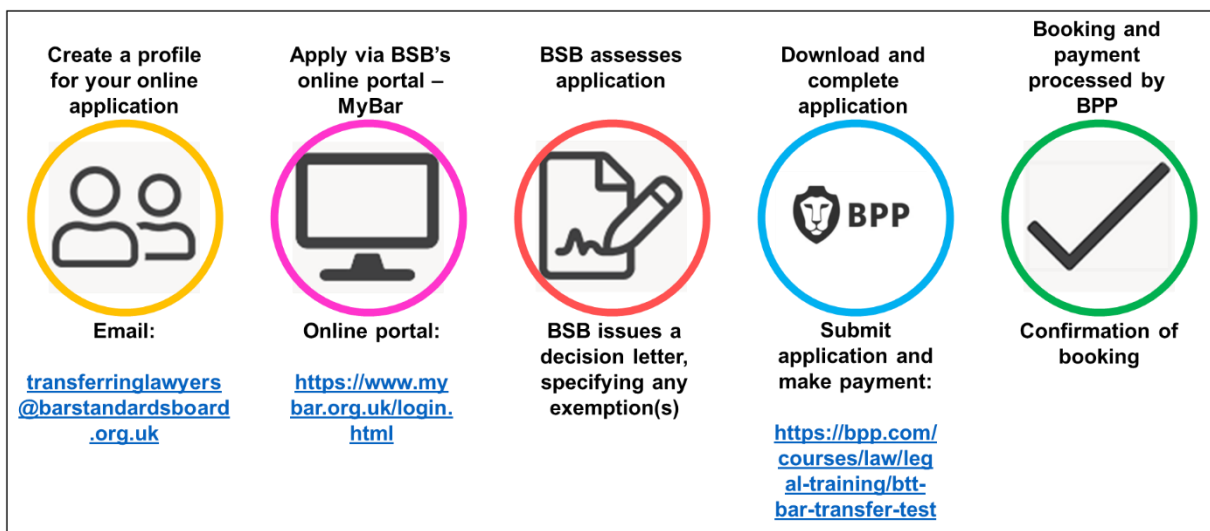
What is the Bar Transfer Test (BTT)?

The BTT is a set of assessments regulated by the Bar Standards Board (BSB). They enable qualified lawyers, who may be solicitors qualified in England and Wales or lawyers from foreign jurisdictions, to qualify for the Bar without having to undergo the full course of academic and vocational training for those who want to be Called to the Bar in England and Wales.

To be eligible for the BTT programme, you need to apply for a BSB exemption. BPP is the only Authorised Education and Training Organisation of the BSB, accredited to deliver BTT preparatory training and assessments on behalf of the BSB. Preparation courses and assessments are taught and examined in English, which requires a good level of both oral and written English skills. These must be readily comprehensible to native English speakers in order to meet the standard required. More information on prerequisites and entry requirements can be viewed on our BTT webpage.

The BTT is a **non-award programme**. This means that, although you may be Called to the Bar of England and Wales if you successfully complete all the elements stipulated by the BSB, you will not receive any academic award or certificate.

Making an Application for the BTT – Overview



Step One – Application to the Bar Standards Board

You must make an application to the BSB Authorisations Team as a Transferring Qualified Lawyer (TQL) for permission to transfer to the Bar. Full guidelines can be found on the BSB [website](#).

You'll need to apply to the BSB through the MyBar [online portal](#). Before you apply, the BSB will need to create a profile for you to access the online application.

Please email transferringlawyers@barstandardsboard.org.uk with your full name, postal address, and contact email address to get started.

The BSB Authorisations Team will assess your experience against the requirements of the [Professional Statement](#) and the [Online Application Guidelines](#). They will determine where assessment exemptions can be granted, but also where a requirement is not met from your previous experience or alternative training. The BSB will specify which of the BTT preparatory training and assessments you must undertake to complete the BTT successfully.

TQL applications can take at least 16 weeks to process upon receipt of the application fee and all necessary supporting documents (please note that the BSB's processing time may vary according to the volume of applications received and it reviews the application fee periodically).

Once you have received your decision letter from the BSB, you can proceed to the next step.

Step Two – Application to BPP

We have developed a document entitled BTT Information for Candidates, which contains further important information about the programme. Please ensure that you have read this in full before making an application.

Once you are ready to apply, download the latest application form from the BPP website or request a copy, by emailing BTT@BPP.com. Once completed, email your application and supporting documents to BTT@BPP.com, by the closing date specified on the form.

BPP aims to acknowledge receipt of your application within two business days. Payment can be made by bank transfer or by card over the phone. BPP aims to process your booking and payment processed over the following three working days, with booking confirmation sent between 7-10 business days after your application has been emailed to BPP (assuming all documentation is correct, and your payment is successful).

BPP's Preparatory Training

Our preparatory training provides practical and highly focused lectures, workshops, learning resources and mock assessments. Sessions are delivered online, using our award-winning Online Classroom Live training platform Adobe Connect or Microsoft Teams.

BTT assessments are difficult. Please consider carefully whether you would benefit from taking up training to prepare you for assessments, as this will be the case for most people. Sessions provide opportunities for you to prioritise revision topics, put your knowledge and skills into practice, and access tutor feedback and support ahead of your assessments.

BTT training is carried out by experienced tutors and/or practitioners, many of whom are experienced at teaching and assessing on BPP's Barrister Training Course. Our expert tutors are regularly involved in the teaching, drafting and marking of Bar Training assessments, and are ideally placed to give guidance for revision and help you understand what is expected of you in assessments and how you can perform at your best.

Some of our training options offer the opportunity for you to undertake formative assessments (mocks), which aim to give you a realistic insight into what you can expect in your real assessments. This is an excellent opportunity to assess how you would have performed and been marked, so that you can identify what improvements you need to work on before you sit.

Once you are enrolled on the Programme, you will get access to BPP's digital learning platform ('the BPP Hub'). If you have signed up only to take your assessments with BPP, this is where you will find essential syllabus information and guidance on your assessment format and the criteria against which you will be marked. The 'assessment only' option does not include access to any BPP learning materials and you will be expected to engage in self-directed study, using the syllabus to guide you.

If you have also signed up for training options, your Hub access will include additional study materials to support you in your revision and preparation. All candidates will receive access to the BPP Online Library, which hosts a variety of legal databases through which you can access the online versions of the White Book and Blackstone's Criminal Practice (hard copies are not supplied on this programme and you will be expected to purchase any hard copy books you wish to take into the assessments from the permitted materials list).

How long does the programme last and how much will it cost?

All of the training and assessments take place within a defined window. We call each window a 'sit'. BTT sits take place three times annually in Spring, Summer and Winter, each typically lasting around two to three months. The Spring 2025 sit will take place between 19th March 2025 and 4th May 2025. How long each individual participates in each sit will depend upon how many assessments they are required to pass and whether they have also signed up for training.

All training and assessments are priced individually, therefore the cost to each applicant will vary. The current prices of the various training and assessment options are set out in the table below.

To ensure success in your final assessments, self-study alongside BPP's preparatory training is essential. The time commitment will vary, depending on which assessments you are required to undertake, as well as your previous experience. BPP recognises that many candidates also have significant personal and professional commitments. It is essential that you plan your studies and assessments carefully, so that you are able to dedicate sufficient time to maximise your chances of success and take whatever training you feel is necessary to achieve this.

You may choose to spread out your assessments across multiple sit opportunities, which provides you with flexibility to plan ahead, and take as much training as you feel you need to prepare. When planning your assessments, please note that some assessments utilise the same set of papers. This means that if you have multiple assessments to sit, it is sensible to sit some of those assessments together within one sit. The following assessments use the same set of case facts:

- Conference Skills, Cross Examination and Examination in Chief
- Opinion Writing and Legal Research

If you require further information about this, please contact the programme team on BTT@BPP.com.

Training takes place across a combination of weekdays, weekends and evenings. It is not possible for us to accommodate requests to rearrange the training dates. Training and assessment dates are contained within the BTT application form and will also be published on the Hub.

Given the challenging nature of the Bar Training assessments, BPP recommends that you dedicate as much free time as possible to study during the sitting. This allows you to better engage in the programme which, ultimately, provides the best chance of success in the assessments.

We recommend that you spend at least 30 hours studying for each of the Professional Ethics, Criminal Litigation and Sentencing, and Civil Litigation and Evidence assessments. However, the amount of time needed to study for written and advocacy assessments will depend entirely on your own experience and how much prior study you have engaged in.

It is recommended that you start planning and preparation at the earliest opportunity. Once you have access to your online learning resources, you should log into the BPP Hub and read any guidance and syllabus documents relevant to the assessments you are taking. From there, you can start to study any recommended texts and the [BSB Handbook](#). If you have signed up for training, you can begin working your way through the training materials.

If you have signed up for workshops which involve practical exercises, please ensure that you set aside sufficient time to fully prepare for these in advance. It will be the expectation of your tutor and your colleagues that all attendees fully prepare, participate in the session and (if relevant) perform. This is important, as a failure to fully engage will impact your learning and, potentially, that of others in the session.

BPP Learning Support

BPP has a dedicated Learning Support team. If you have a learning difficulty, disability or health condition that may affect your completion of this programme, please inform the Learning Support team by email at LearningSupport@bpp.com once your application has been confirmed. The deadline for the Learning Support team to confirm reasonable adjustments for assessments is **one month before the assessment date**. Any previous Learning Support Arrangements that have been in place prior to enrolment on the BTT at BPP will **not automatically apply**, therefore it is important that you inform us of this quickly so that we may refer you for assessment.

Pupillage and Call to the Bar

Once you have completed your assessments, you are eligible to apply for pupillage. For details of current pupillage vacancies, please refer to the [Pupillage Gateway](#) website, administered by the Bar Council. After successful completion of the required assessments and the requisite number of [Qualifying Sessions](#) you will be eligible to be Called to the Bar of England and Wales.

Training and Assessments

The table below sets out further information about the training and assessment options, together with the costs of each option. The dates and times for each training session and assessment are contained within the BTT application form.

Training and preparatory sessions		Cost
Civil Litigation (online)	<p>This consists of two full days of training which are designed to assist you in your revision and preparation for the BSB Centralised assessment in Civil Litigation. These workshops cover a broad overview of examinable topics, plus practice MCQs on each area and tips to help focus your revision. You can choose whether to sign up to one day, or both.</p> <p>Day 1, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme 1: Alternative Dispute Resolution methods - Theme 2: Pre-action matters and associated costs - Theme 3: Commencing and responding to a claim. <p>Day 2, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme 4: Early dismissal of claims and additional claims - Theme 5: Progressing and defending the claim (interim hearings, case management and evidence, further evidence, and settlement) - Theme 6: Concluding the claim and appeals / enforcement. 	<p>Day 1 - £375</p> <p>Day 2 - £375</p>
Civil Litigation revision webinar (online)	This is not a substitute for undertaking the 2-day training. Revision webinars provide you with an opportunity to ask questions on the syllabus content, in advance of the centralised assessment.	£340
Criminal Litigation (online)	This consists of two full days of training which are designed to assist you in your revision and preparation for the BSB centralised assessment in Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing. These workshops will cover a broad overview of examinable topics, plus practice MCQs on each area and tips to help focus your revision.	£750
Criminal Litigation revision webinar (online)	This is not a substitute for undertaking the full-day training. Revision webinars provide you with an opportunity to ask questions on the syllabus content, in advance of the centralised assessment.	£340

Professional Ethics (online)	During this full-day training session, you will consolidate on your revision in professional ethics and work with your colleagues and trainer to discuss a number of scenarios which give rise to ethical issues, considering how these might best be resolved in accordance with the duties within the BSB Handbook and associated Guidance. You will have the opportunity to practice answering and discussing Multiple-Choice and Single Best Answer Questions, to help prepare you for the BPP Professional Ethics Assessment.	£375
Professional Ethics revision webinar (online)	This is not a substitute for undertaking the full day training. Revision webinars provide you with an opportunity to ask questions on the syllabus content, in advance of the Professional Ethics assessment.	£340
Advocacy and Witness Handling (online)	<p>Three full days of training are available. If the BSB requires you to sit Advocacy, undertaking the full three days of training is compulsory.</p> <p>If you have already undertaken the full three days of training and are required to re-sit, you may sign up to take training again if you wish, and in such circumstances, you may sign up for each day independently. Even if the exercises you undertake are the same as ones you have done before, further opportunities to practice and receive feedback are still valuable.</p> <p>The training is structured as follows:</p> <p>Day 1 – Lectures in Witness Handling and Submission Advocacy.</p> <p>Day 2 – Witness Handling. You will work in small groups practicing your skills in cross-examination and examination-in-chief. You will then undertake a formative assessment (mock) in each skill and receive feedback from your trainer. Just like the assessment and to make the experience more realistic, an actor will play the witness in your formative assessment.</p> <p>Day 3 – Submission Advocacy. You will work in small groups practicing your submission advocacy skills. You will then undertake a formative assessment (mock) and receive feedback from your trainer.</p>	<p>Day 1 - £315</p> <p>Day 2 - £500</p> <p>Day 3 - £500</p>
Submission Advocacy (Civil Applications) workshop (online)	This 2-hour small group workshop incorporates practice and assessment preparation in submission advocacy (civil applications). You will prepare for and perform part of an application. You will receive feedback on your performance and	£315

	on your skeleton argument, to help prepare you for your assessments.	
Witness Handling Mini-Trial workshop (online)	This 2-hour small group workshop incorporates practice and assessment preparation in cross-examination and examination-in-chief. An actor will role play the witnesses you are to examine. You will receive feedback on your performances from your trainer to help you prepare for the assessments.	£450
Conference Skills (online)	This 2-part workshop is designed to help you practice the skills needed to succeed in the conference skills assessment. During the first session, you will work with your trainer to better understand how to plan for and undertake an effective client conference. During session 2 you will perform a formative conference assessment (mock). Just like in the assessments, an actor will role play the client. You will receive feedback on your performance from your trainer to help you prepare for the assessments.	£630
Drafting (online)	This 2-part workshop is designed to help you practice the skills needed to succeed in the Drafting Assessment. During the first session, you will work with your trainer to better understand how to produce an effective statement of case. You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a formative assessment (mock), which you will produce and submit in the period between the two sessions. This will be marked by your trainer and feedback will be provided. During session 2 you will review the formative assessment and learn how you might have improved on your work.	£630
Opinion Writing/Legal Research (online) <i>(Whilst these are two separate modules, we recommend studying them together as the assessments take place at the same time)</i>	<p>This 2-part workshop is designed to help you practice the skills needed to succeed in the Opinion Writing and Legal Research Assessments. During the first session, you will work with your trainer to better understand how to write a good quality Opinion and document your research effectively in a Research Trail.</p> <p>You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a formative assessment (mock), which you will produce and submit in the period between the sessions. This will be marked by your trainer and feedback will be provided. During session 2 you will review the formative assessment and learn how you might have improved on your work.</p>	£630

Assessments		Cost
<p>Civil Litigation (in-person)</p> <p><i>(You must take both papers in the same sitting)</i></p>	<p>Paper one: A pen-and-paper assessment in person lasting 2 hours. The Civil Litigation Paper 1 assessment is a closed-book supervised assessment consisting of multiple-choice questions or single-best-answer questions.</p> <p>For closed-book assessments, you are not allowed to bring any paper and the venue will provide rough paper for you.</p> <p>Paper two: A pen-and-paper assessment taken in person lasting 2.5-hours.</p> <p>The Civil Litigation Paper 2 assessment is an open book supervised assessment consisting of multiple-choice questions or single best answer questions.</p> <p>You are permitted to take Volumes 1 and 2 of the White Book into this assessment. The materials you are permitted to use are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A copy of the White Book, which can be highlighted and annotated.* - Sticky page markers, which can be used to mark sections of the White Book** - Sticky notes with annotations in the White Book but you may not interleave the pages with loose sheets or other material. - You are not permitted to use any additional loose material. <p>*Annotations: the BSB has confirmed that candidates are permitted to write annotations in the blank pages of the White Book. There is no qualification of the definition of 'annotation'.</p> <p>**Sticky notes/Sticky page markers: a sticky note/sticky page marker is something that has its own adhesive which allows it to be stuck to the White Book but also removed. Sticky Notes/Sticky page markers would not therefore include paper that is permanently stuck, glued or stapled on or inside the White Book**</p>	<p>Paper 1 - £385</p> <p>Paper 2 - £385</p>
<p>Criminal Litigation (in-person)</p>	<p>A pen-and-paper assessment taken in person lasting 3 hours.</p> <p>The Criminal Litigation assessment is a closed-book supervised assessments consisting of multiple-choice questions or single-best-answer questions.</p> <p>For closed-book assessments, you are not allowed to bring any paper and the venue will provide rough paper for you.</p>	<p>£385</p>

Professional Ethics (in-person)	<p>A pen-and-paper assessment taken in person lasting 2 hours.</p> <p>The Professional Ethics assessment is a closed-book supervised assessment consisting of multiple-choice questions or single-best-answer questions.</p> <p>For closed-book assessments, you are not allowed to bring any paper in and the venue will provide rough paper for you.</p>	£385
Submission Advocacy (Civil Applications) (online)	<p>15-minute oral assessment consisting of making a civil application, plus a marked written component comprising a skeleton argument.</p> <p>Assessment materials are provided in advance.</p>	£420
Advocacy – Cross Examination (online)	<p>15-minute oral assessment consisting of cross examining a witness (played by an actor), plus a mandatory written component comprising a case theory and trial strategy document.</p> <p>Assessment materials are provided in advance.</p>	£420
Advocacy – Examination in Chief (online)	<p>15-minute oral assessment consisting of examining in chief a witness (played by an actor), plus a mandatory written component comprising a case theory and trial strategy document.</p> <p>Assessment materials are provided in advance.</p>	£420
Conference Skills (online)	<p>Oral assessment</p> <p>Candidates must perform 20 minutes of a conference in a criminal case with their client played by an actor.</p> <p>Candidates must produce a conference preparation note limited to 3 sides of A4 in font Arial 11.</p>	£420
Drafting (in-person)	<p>A supervised assessment, taken in person and lasting 3 hours.</p> <p>Candidates will be required to draft a statement of case.</p> <p>One week prior to the assessment, Candidates will be supplied with a briefing sheet outlining the broad areas of law which will form the basis of the assessment. Candidates are supplied with a list of permitted materials which can be taken into the assessment.</p> <p>Candidates are required to use their own laptops during this assessment and will be required to attend one of BPP's designated assessment venues.</p>	£385

Opinion Writing (coursework, online)	Coursework – 7 days. Candidates receive a set of case papers and are required to undertake legal research and write an Opinion with a maximum word limit of 4000 words.	£385
Legal Research (coursework, online)	Coursework – 7 days. This assessment is based on the same set of case papers used for the Opinion Writing assessment. The Legal Research element is separately assessed through the requirement to produce a legal research trail of no more than 2000 words.	£285

